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EUGENE WEEKLY

CHRIS KERNER
WORKS ON A
DELICATELY
DETAILED
SHERLOCK
PIPE IN HIS
WHITEAKER
STUDIO

Photo by Todd Cooper

Heart of Glass

Lane County's high-end
glass blowing community

P. 10

LIBRARY CUTS P. 6 **CAT CAFÉ** P. 8 **CIVIL WAR** P. 17

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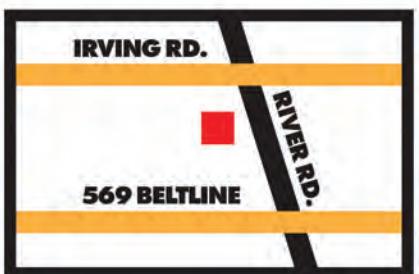
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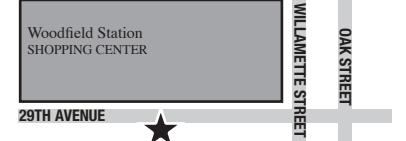
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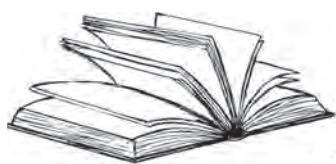
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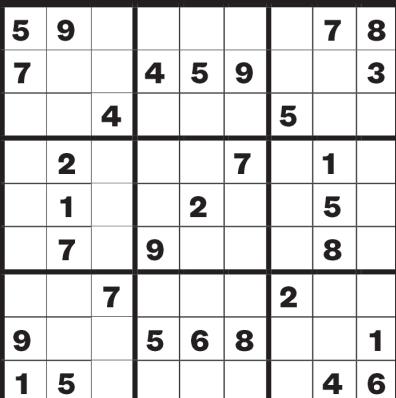
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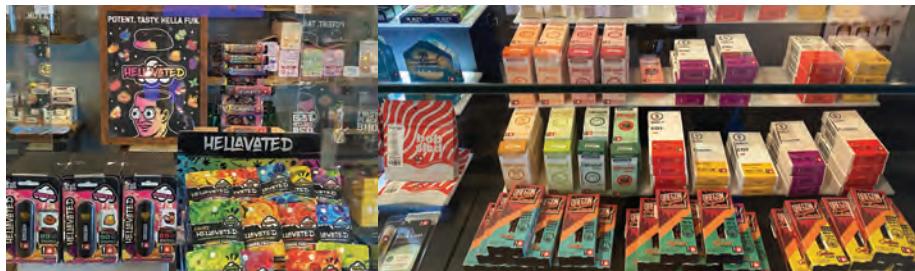
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letters

YOU'RE WELCOME

Thank you for your "April 1 Issue" printed in the March 28 edition. It is some of the funniest satire I've read in a long time. Laughing out loud so much was just what I needed to start my day today. Congratulations to your witty staff. And thanks for getting back in print!

Lee Boutell
Eugene

THE BEEF IS HERE

I'm glad to see a local grocery store being thoughtful about the products they bring in. ("Got Carbon-neutral Beef?" Emerson Brady, EW 3/21/24). Carbon neutral beef from Washington is a great option when you need to grab some ground beef or a steak for tonight's dinner. For beefeaters looking to go the next step in consciously choosing the food they eat, they might look closer to home.

Several Lane County farms offer high quality and environmentally conscious beef. Deck Family Farm in Junction City sells beef at the Lane County Farmers Market, online and through their CSA. Fair Valley Farm, west of Eugene, sells beef onsite, at the Farmers Market, through CSA or in bulk shares. Our farm, Winter Green Beef in Noti, sells certified organic beef shares directly to customers. Choosing to purchase locally means

you can know your farmer, keep money in our economy and create fewer transportation emissions.

While none of these small farms offer precise numbers on carbon sequestration, all three utilize research-backed practices to store carbon, increase soil fertility, enhance biodiversity and produce delicious 100 percent grass fed beef for our local economy. Where's the beef? Right here in Lane County.

Courtney Moore
Winter Green Beef LLC
Noti

'MAGA' ATTACK

Cork it, Corcoran!

Sorry, but in his mean spirited letter directed at candidate Doyle Canning, Tony Corcoran sounds just like a MAGA Republican. Attack, disparage and accuse without one mention of the issues and policies that voters are concerned with.

I've known Canning as a great neighbor who is totally dedicated to improving our community via her advocacy for workers rights as well as our environment. And she is a team player. When Rep. Paul Holvey was under the threat of being recalled, Canning held a fundraiser for him in her backyard. She convinced me to attend and contribute. I remember a certain Tony Corcoran being in attendance that night.

Jonesin' Crossword

©2023 JONESIN' CROSSWORDS (EDITOR@JONESINCROSSWORDS.COM)

"Incomplete Broadway"

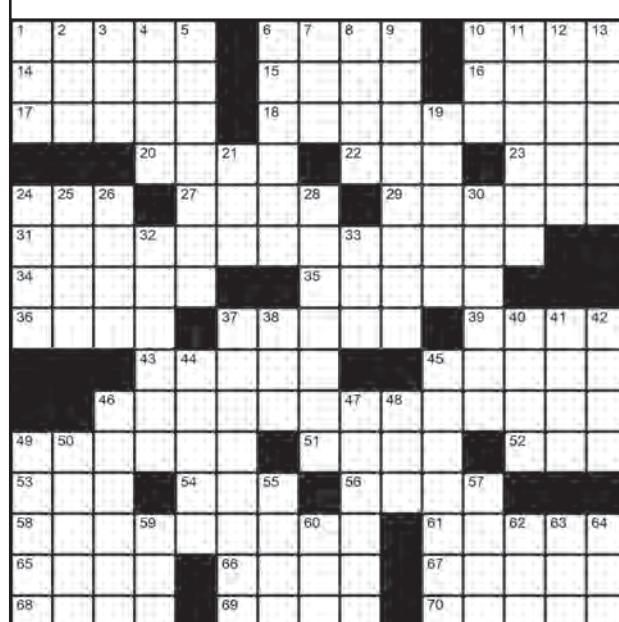
-some words don't get an Act 2.

Across

- 1. Greek letter after eta
- 6. Mummy's locale
- 10. Blowfish delicacy that may be dangerous to eat
- 14. Blowing up online
- 15. Athletic footwear brand
- 16. "... like ___ of bricks"
- 17. Neck warmer
- 18. Incomplete musical about royal footwear?
- 20. Recording material
- 22. Anti-pollution gp.
- 23. Chess or key lime, e.g.
- 24. Tattoos
- 27. A bunch
- 29. Instigate
- 31. Incomplete musical about someone who's into Verdi and Wagner?
- 34. Amazon assistant
- 35. Cheesy dip
- 36. Ride from the airport, maybe
- 37. Sulky expressions
- 39. Tower-ing city?
- 43. Abu ___
- 45. Gary who had a hit with "Cars"
- 46. Incomplete play about Yogi or Boo-Boo?
- 49. Aretha Franklin's longtime label
- 51. Broadway play or musical
- 52. Org. based in Langley
- 53. Animation sheet
- 54. Retreating tide
- 56. Toaster-based brand
- 58. Incomplete musical about Chucky or Annabelle?
- 61. Keep clear of
- 65. "Garfield" dog
- 66. Hideaway
- 67. Giant tourist attraction
- 68. Sweet endings?
- 69. Ready and willing go-with
- 70. Come in

Down

- 1. Best Buy stock
- 2. "I drank root beer too quickly" noise
- 3. Notable period
- 4. Sour-ish
- 5. "Our Gang" member
- 6. "... the Lord ___ away"
- 7. Prefix before raptor
- 8. Gold source
- 9. They're squeezed at some weddings
- 10. ___ Schwarz (toy store)
- 11. Perfect place
- 12. "Understood?"
- 13. Erase from memory, jokingly
- 19. Causes of ruin
- 21. Planter's container
- 24. "... first you don't succeed..."
- 25. Simba's mate
- 26. Construction toy brand with an apostrophe and no silent letters
- 28. Sparkly bits
- 30. Appear unexpectedly
- 32. Lime and rust, for example
- 33. Baseball call
- 37. Mathematical curve
- 38. Kimono closer
- 40. Colorful computer
- 41. Bollywood garment
- 42. "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" crooner Paul
- 44. Couldn't stand
- 45. Menu option paired with "Continue"
- 46. Singer Eilish
- 47. "And ___ off!"
- 48. Sty sitter
- 49. "Gesundheit" prompter
- 50. Orchestra section
- 55. Say too much
- 57. Pizzeria fixture
- 59. Guitar innovator Paul
- 60. ___ Uzi Vert
- 62. Mo. with 31 days
- 63. Addition to coffee, sometimes
- 64. ___ es Salaam, Tanzania



But now Corcoran sees the need to denounce Canning since she is not a member of his team. Seems to me we should be talking about the issues at hand and not stoop to the mud slinging that Corcoran heartily embraces. Corcoran encourages voters to email and text Canning with negative messages. I encourage readers to learn about Canning by visiting CanningforOregon.com and to vote for her on or before May 21.

Murray (Skip) Frazee III
Eugene

SHAMEFUL OPINIONS

In his letter to the editor, Tony Corcoran seems irate over the fact that Doyle Canning dares to provide a second choice in a political primary race. Since when has democracy been strengthened by an old-school political machine that anoints its successors and attempts to blackball community members who dare to throw their hats in the ring?

Canning was one of my law clerks at the Civil Liberties Defense Center while she attended the UO Law School as a public interest law student. She is intelligent, an earnest hard worker, a highly skilled community organizer, a working class family member and a compassionate mom raising two young kids in this community. She could do lots of things with her brain and her dedication, but she wants to try and make our communi-

ty and the world a better place and is willing to endure the political machine and the election process to serve the public interest.

Having two choices for a political office primary should be the bare minimum in a democracy. The petty BS Corcoran served up in his letter could best be interpreted as, "How dare the people decide who will govern them! We professional politicians know what is best." If they thought they were doing such a great job as our elected representatives, they'd probably be a bit more secure in letting the process determine who is the best candidate. I'm thankful that people like Canning are willing to try and serve our community. Corcoran's letter is shameful.

Lauren Regan
Eugene

A DIFFERENT WORLD FOR LANDLORDS

This is in response to Nancy Nichols' letter of April 11 regarding landlords' choosing their tenants ("Rental Intentions").

It is, indeed, a very, very different world today. I have been a landlady for much of my life, since the '60s. The house I bought in L.A. at that time (at \$29,500!) had a guest house at the end of the driveway which got me started. My requirements for a prospective tenant

were simple — three years satisfactory employment and three years responsible rent payments.

I personally contacted the employers and rental folks. If all was satisfactory, I met personally with the prospective tenant. Much is to be said about the benefit of a face-to-face meeting.

I continued to have rental property when I moved to Eugene in the early '90s, using the same requirements. In all this time I had only one adverse experience. One young woman left owing me one month's rent — never any damage.

In this day and age, I am glad my landlady's days are over.

Jane Dods
Eugene

YES FOR 4J

I am writing to urge you to vote Yes on Measure 20-357, to renew the 4J Local Option Levy. As a 4J family — with one child now about to graduate from college, one about to graduate from high school, and one more still in high school, I know how this levy helped the schools provide important opportunities not just for them, but also their colleagues. It is a small property tax that we already have; it is not a tax increase.

State funding for our schools is woefully inadequate. As someone who served on the 4J Budget Committee for nine years, I know just how important this levy

is. It allows 4J to hire more teachers and staff, and to provide more academic programs and extracurricular activities. My wife helped start the parent organization at North Eugene High School a few years ago; we know personally how important it is that all of our students receive opportunities — not just those families who can afford the extras. Renewing this levy will make sure that happens. Please vote Yes on your ballot by May 21.

Joshua Burstein
Eugene

REMEMBERING NANCIE FADELEY

Nancie Peacocke Fadeley passed away April 7 at age 93. Her life was one of service to her beloved state. She served five terms in the State House of Representatives from 1971 to 1981.

She was a Democrat who was able to work with Republicans to bring about iconic legislation, which made Oregon the national leader in environmental issues. During her terms, Oregon enacted the nation's first bottle deposit law; statewide land use planning; the public records law; and the open meetings law.

She was able to do this because she never felt the need to get credit. Instead, it was more than enough for her to see the results for Oregon.

David Jensen
Walterville

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Losing a Third Space

LIBRARIES IN EUGENE AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE FACING BUDGET CUTS AGAIN

By Emerson Brady

In the heart of downtown Eugene, the library's four floors are bustling. There's a teen lounge with weekly events, an outdoor play area for kids, vinyl listening parties and tutoring — just to name a few. Everything at the library is free and open to anyone.

Eugene Public Library Foundation Executive Director Dana Fleming likes to call the Eugene library a "third space." She defines it as a place that isn't home or work, but a place you can just be — free from financial barriers and social judgments.

This third space, which was utilized as a daytime warming center when ice storms ravaged the city, is once again facing budget cuts.

In May 2023, Eugene Public Library, and its branches, was up against a \$4 million budget cut, roughly 15 percent of its total budget, as part of the city of Eugene's Biennial Budget for 2023-2025. The city came back in June 2023 offering the public library \$30,000 for youth programming and \$50,000 for youth materials. The library budget was still cut by \$2 million per year..

Nine months later the Eugene City Council has come back with more budget cuts across the board, with the library one of the potential services getting slashed.

In 2023, the library cut 12 positions, ramped up fund-raising partnerships with EPL Foundation and Friends of the Library and, as Fleming put it, "hoped the budget cuts won't last forever."

"With our general budget from the city right now there is no money to buy new books, materials or run programming," Fleming says. "If it wasn't for the 2020 library levy [which promised to keep the Eugene library open at least 47 hours per week], the Friends of Library book sale, and the Library Foundation we would barely be able to run."

Twylla Miller, Eugene's chief financial officer, says "post-pandemic pressures" have left the city with a \$15 million gap in the 2023-2025 budget. In addition to the structural gap, "there is \$5 million in services that have been priorities for the City Council and the community, which had been funded with one-time funds, without a permanent funding source identified," she says.

To address this additional \$5 million necessary for programs that rely on one-time funds such as homeless shelters, Miller says that every program in the city is being considered for budget cuts.

In the last round of budget cuts in July 2023, 31 percent of the Eugene Public Library staff was cut despite only comprising 3 percent of city staff. Fleming isn't sure how many more budget cuts the library can take before having to diminish hours, and eventually close branches.

Fleming says, "It just feels like we should be a priority, because we do fill a lot of needs in the city, aside from just finding somewhere to find your favorite book."

There's an emphasis on ensuring kids' needs are being met no matter what age or demographic they are. Tween

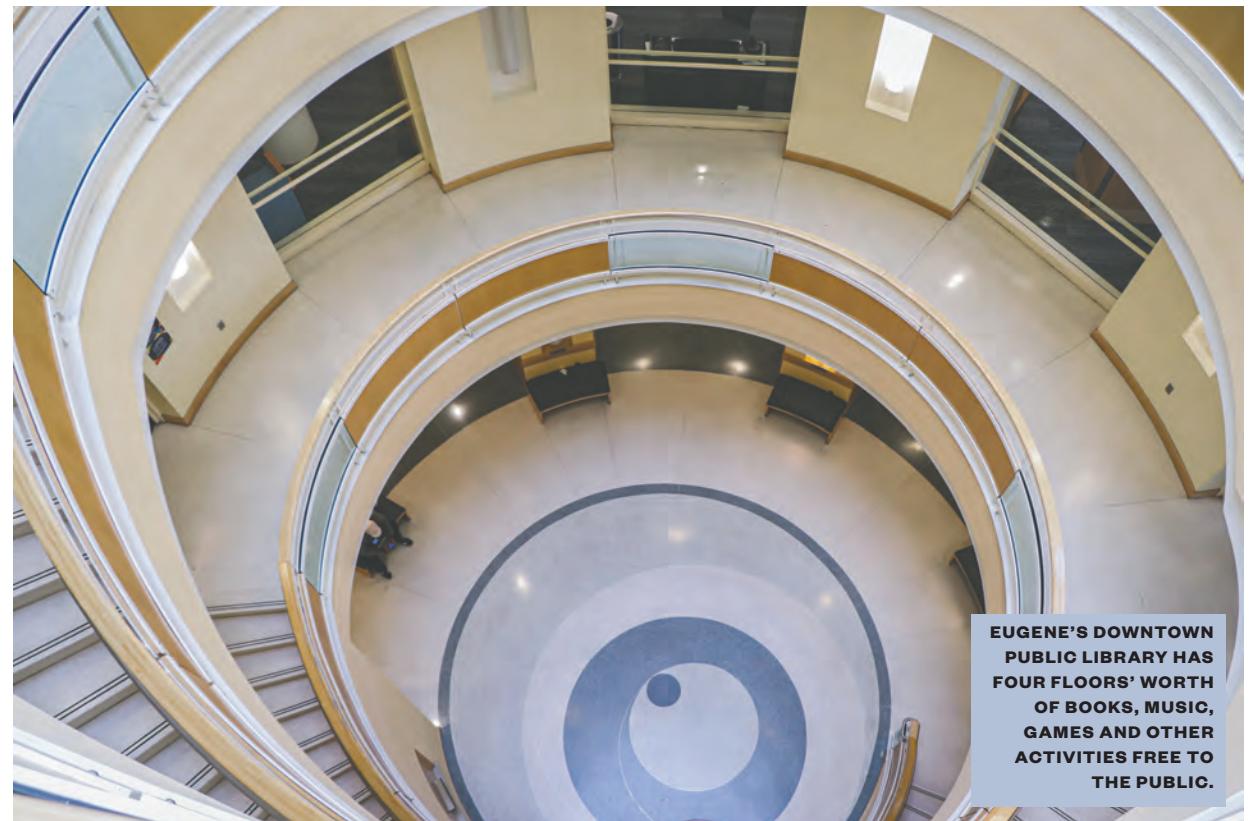


Photo by Dana Fleming

'THE LIBRARY IS FREE TO ANYONE, EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A LIBRARY CARD HOLDER, YOU CAN BE HERE. THEY DON'T STOP YOU AT THE DOOR AND ASK YOU FOR YOUR LIBRARY CARD, WHICH IS KIND OF NICE. BUT THAT'S ALSO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT DINGS US WHEN BUDGET CUTS HAPPEN IS THAT WE DON'T, BY NATURE, RAISE REVENUE.'

— Dana Fleming, EPL Foundation executive director

rooms are equipped with free menstrual products and a box where middle-school-aged kids can ask anonymous questions about puberty and sexuality. In the children's book area a book vending machine is filled with books exclusively written by Black and/or Indigenous people of color. On the first-floor teen lounge, bins are filled with free personal hygiene products, whiteboards are chock-full of posters of upcoming events and a TV sits in the middle of the room with free access to video games.

"The library is free to anyone, even if you're not a library card holder, you can be here. They don't stop you at the door and ask you for your library card, which is kind of nice," Fleming says. "But that's also one of the things that dings us when budget cuts happen is that we don't, by nature, raise revenue."

The Eugene library isn't the only one facing budget cuts. In Salem, city councilors are considering cutting eight positions from Salem Public Library, resulting in \$1.2 million in budget cuts. Across the country, library

budgets are also getting slashed. Seattle is facing major budget cuts to its public librarys, resulting in intermittent closures of most branches.

Miller says the budget cuts for next year are still a work in progress. She says that the Eugene City Council has a work session on "Financial Update and Revenue Options," scheduled for April 22 on these topics. The city budget committee is also scheduled to receive an update on this topic on May 22.

In the meantime, Fleming will continue to support the library in whatever way she can. She says, "The library creates community, not just a repository for knowledge, but also an opportunity to be able to be in space with other people and connect in ways that they may not have planned before."

To learn more about how you can support the Eugene Public Library Foundation go to EPLFoundation.org. To find more information about the Eugene Public Library go Eugene-Or.Gov/4422/Eugene-Public-Library. ' EPL executive

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Honorable Mention:
Bar Purlieu

BEST VEGETARIAN BITE

Winner: Sheild Catering
Honorable Mention:
Hop Valley Brewing

BEST SAVORY BITE

Winner: Bar Purlieu
Honorable Mention:
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news

Purr-fect Place

CAT CAFÉS AND LOUNGES HAVE BEEN GAINING POPULARITY IN THE U.S. FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS, BUT THE FIRST IN EUGENE-SPRINGFIELD IS NOW OPEN

By Emma J Nelson

Soothing lo-fi music emanates from the speakers as the gas fireplace warms the room. Clad in slippers, up to eight guests are welcomed in by the "mrrps" of the lounge's furry residents. For the next 50 minutes, visitors to the Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge are encouraged to play, cuddle and bond with the cats and kittens fostered on site.

Cat lounge owner Michelle Wyatt didn't have pets of her own growing up, and she didn't get her own cat until she was 23 years old. Ever since, Wyatt has loved cats, she says, even attending cat shows to see what all the fuss was about.

After leaving her decades-long medical practice in 2021, Wyatt visited cat cafés across the country. The idea of starting her own began brewing back in late June 2023, she says. She visited a cat café in Vancouver, Canada, and realized that there was nothing like it back home.

"There were no cat lounges in [Lane County] when I started," Wyatt says. "So it would be unique and novel."

Seven months later on Jan. 31, Wyatt opened the doors of Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge at 537 W. Centennial Blvd.

The cat lounge truly feels unique upon entry. Tabby and tuxedo cat clocks welcome customers from the wall, tails swinging. The gift shop dominates the entranceway, carrying a plethora of subtle and definitely unsubtle cat-themed merchandise. The most appealing, however, is the window on the back wall.

Behind the window, cats run, play, nap and get to know potential owners. Guests leave their shoes at the door, changing into socks or slippers to prevent tracking in dirt or stepping on paws.

Sam Spayde, the assistant manager, works from a desk within the lounge and often has a cat on her lap as she designs advertisements for the business.

"It's so relaxing," Spayde says. "Just hanging out with cats, being able to work on the ads for the company while there's a cat in my lap? Yes, it's the best."

Although spending all day with cats sounds peaceful, the staff of Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge are hard at work maintaining the health of the rescues under their care, Spayde says.

Wyatt has only ever owned rescued animals, she says, and she highly encourages others to do the same — to provide cats in need with a good home. That, however, is not the only goal of Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge, she says.

"There are a lot of people who can't have cats at home for whatever reasons," Wyatt says. "This is a place for people to come hang out with cats, whether they are interested in adoption or not."

There are currently nine cats from Cat Rescue and Adoption Network luxuriating at the cat lounge: Cocoa Bean, Granola, Mochi, Binx, Blackietoes, Marcus, Freddy, Fifi and Jennifer. Mochi and Binx are a bonded pair, as are Marcus and Freddy.

Each staff member lists their favorite of the cats in their website bio. After visiting the lounge for an afternoon, *Eugene Weekly* is divided. Some preferred Binx's laidback, cuddly nature whereas others delighted in Snickers' playfulness and can-do attitude. Snickers has since been adopted.

Potential adoptees must go through CRAN to adopt the cats fostered. Cats adopted through CRAN cost anywhere from \$70 to \$175 based on the age of the cat (kittens cost the most) and the needs (seniors and special needs cats cost the least). All cats at the lounge are spayed/neutered and microchipped before arriving on site.

Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge has arranged 13 adoptions with one more pending since it opened, Wyatt says.

"The biggest thing is to help the cats," Spayde says. "They're the reason we're here. Customers are amazing, but I think in the end it all boils down to we need to get these guys to their happy forever homes."

Eugene Springfield Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Boulevard, Springfield, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 7 pm with a brief closure from 2 to 3 pm every day. One hour in the lounge costs \$12 per person on weekdays; \$15 per person on weekends.

This story received support from the Local News Initiative at the Catalyst Journalism Project, based at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. For more, see CatalystJournalism.uoregon.edu.



SNICKERS

Photo by Emma J. Nelson

slant

Oregon, works in photography, performance and poetry. Born in an orphanage in Peru, she was adopted by a Czech-American family and grew up in Ohio. Her work can be seen in such lofty institutions as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Centre Pompidou in Paris and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

• **Tax Day was April 15. It was also the international A15 day of action for a free Palestine** that was the impetus for the protest that shut down the southbound lanes of I-5 near 105 for 45 minutes Monday morning. Meanwhile, Planet vs. Pentagon conducted its annual Penny Poll in front of the Eugene Public Library. Each person is given 10 pennies and told to put them in jars that represent how they wish their tax dollars were allocated. This year's results were: human resources 37.8 percent, climate and environment 29.3 percent, physical resources (infrastructure) 15 percent, military 10 percent and general government 7.9 percent. Michael Carrigan of Planet vs. Pentagon tells us, "As in past years, Eugene's residents would like less of their tax dollars to fund the military and more to fight climate change. At this point in time, close to 50 percent of our taxes fund the U.S. military." We're not big on war in this town.

• **New York Philharmonic trumpet player Matthew Muckey, who was to perform as principal trumpet with the 2024 Oregon Bach Festival, won't be playing in Eugene after all** following an April 12 *New York Magazine* article that documented claims by a fellow musician that she had been drugged and raped after a concert in 2010. A University of Oregon spokesperson confirmed that Muckey, who had been offered an OBF contract earlier this year, "is not on the OBF roster and will not be playing with the festival this summer," but declined to say whether the change was related to the rape accusation. Former NY Phil horn player Cara Kizer told the magazine that she was apparently given a date rape drug when she went out for a drink with Muckey and NY Phil oboist Liang Wang after a concert in Vail, Colorado, and woke up with signs that she had been raped. Police investigated but did not file charges; both men, currently not performing with the NY Phil, deny any assault.



QUEEN OF CAIRO AND BABY FABLE *Photo by Chloe LaMonica*

• **Readers of our April 4 cover story updating you on our embezzlement might have noted a reference to Editor Camilla Mortensen's pregnant horse.** The mare gave birth the same day the *Eugene Weekly* hit the red boxes, and the paper welcomed a red chestnut filly named Fable to the family. Unlike the dogs, she won't be coming to the office — but we did have a baby shower.

Tawnya Madsen, J.D.
Principal Broker/Attorney

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• It's our pleasure to see that Eugene photographer Tarrah Krajnak has been honored as a 2024 Guggenheim Fellow. Krajnak, an assistant professor of art at the University of

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Unbroken

AN INSIDE LOOK IN EUGENE'S GLASSBLOWING MECCA, WHERE BONGS ARE SOLD FOR UP TO \$62,000

By Emerson Brady

In 2001 Chris Carlson was working at a checkout stand in a Los Angeles Home Depot when Tommy Chong walked through the door. Carlson didn't smoke weed at the time. While his coworkers freaked out over the comedian of Cheech and Chong fame, 22-year-old Carlson didn't care at all. Chong must've liked his apathy, because after a few interactions, he asked Carlson to help fix his glass shop's ventilator.

"And I went and checked it out," Carlson says of Chong Glass Works, "and it was the first time I'd ever seen glass blowing, but it was amazing." He adds, "And all these dudes were just in there smoking cigarettes, and it was just like, this outlaw little thing that I just didn't even realize existed."

Carlson was hooked. He traded his orange apron for a blow torch that very same day. It was less pay than Home Depot, but he couldn't pass it up.

Twenty-two years later Carlson is a husband, a father of four and a premier glass artist. The glass that he blows isn't your bong from college that you remembered to clean only sometimes. He is a part of a glass community in Eugene creating highly artistic pieces selling for thousands of dollars.

Carlson started out making at least 31 pipes a day at Chong's glass shop to "earn my bench." He moved on to piecework, where instead of getting paid hourly he was paid per piece and had to make at least 33 glass "spoons" — smaller spoon-shaped pipes — per day.

After two years of taxing production work, Carlson and a couple other coworkers left Chong to learn a new technique in Vegas. He says it was called "inside out," in which the artist draws a pattern on the inside of the glass and then melts it down instead of doing the pattern on the outside of the tube.

He put in his one-month notice with Chong — and was fired on the spot.

Two weeks later U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft raided Chong's glass shop, shut down the entire business, arrested 55 people and threw Chong in federal prison for nine months. Thirty-five indictments were issued; two of which involved Eugene Glass School founder Saeed Mohtadi and glass blower Jason Robert Harris, who together owned Jerome Baker Designs.

"Police showed up at my house at five in the morning and threw us to the ground," Mohtadi says. "All because some employee got tricked into mailing a bong to Pennsylvania in a sting operation."

Mohtadi and his partner Harris were put on house arrest for six months. Mohtadi says they were told by the government that they could never sell bongs again. So Mohtadi made raw materials to sell to glass blowers instead.

The case made national news and was nicknamed "Operation Pipe Dreams."

Carlson getting fired from Chong Glass Works was a blessing in disguise; after Operation Pipe Dreams blew Chong's glass shop up in smoke, those that made it out without a charge started an underground glass scene in Los Angeles. Carlson moved back to L.A. shortly after and started blowing glass in his mom's garage with a friend and former co-worker from Chong Glass.

"He would blow glass in the day, and I would run the business and blow glass at night," Carlson says.

The duo sold pipes from Venice Beach to Orange



CHRIS CARLSON SELLS HIS GLASS UNDER THE ALIAS LOSTART (L.A.) AS AN HOMAGE TO HIS LOS ANGELES ROOTS.

Photo by Nicholas Olenich

County to every glass shop that couldn't get pipes because bigger shops were getting busted. They'd walk up and down beach boardwalks with big suitcases full of glass — mostly duplicated from Chong's catalog.

"They wiped the big guys so we decided to seize the moment," Carlson says.

Carlson's work taking off coincided with the early days of the internet and social media. He stumbled upon a currently defunct website called glasspipes.org, where people would upload their glass under aliases. Around 2003, Carlson, who was also a photographer, began posting photos of his work online under Lost Art and L.A. Glass.). His work garnered attention from other glass artists who pointed him to Eugene Glass School.

In 2004, he road-tripped to Eugene with some friends from Chong's Glass to take a class. He ended up photographing the Eugene Glass School Flame-Off and was so moved by the event he made the pilgrimage back to Eugene in 2006 to be closer to a more thriving glass community.

Carlson is known for his basket weave pattern and Sherlock pipes, which unlike traditional pipes have a curved stem and bring to mind the eponymous famous detective. He says that he feels very lucky he mastered basket weaving because few know it and even fewer know how to do it without being sloppy.

His technique involves smashing and stretching his strips of colors into a flat ribbon. From there he chops his glass into little squares to create intricate woven patterns. Carlson taught basket weaving glass classes at the world-renowned glass school, Pilchuck Glass School near Seattle.

He had a studio in the Whiteaker, right in the center of Eugene's glass world, but during the pandemic he transformed an old barn on his property in Dexter into a studio complete with a kiln, torches and a vintage

Volkswagen car collection. When Carlson isn't blowing glass for collectors, he's fixing old classic cars, taking pictures and making glass pendants for his daughters which he says "melts his heart" every time he sees them wear one to school.

"I prefer being closer to home, because I like being near my family," Carlson says. "I love my job, but if I could have it my way I'd be playing with my kids all day. Working from home helps with that."

IF EUGENE IS A GLASS BLOWING CITY, the Whiteaker is the city hall. The heart of the glass blowing mecca is where friend and glass blower Chris Kerner, also known as Cowboy, has his studio, Cowboy Glass.

Kerner's road to glass blowing began with a freak accident while riding a horse on his family's ranch in south Texas. He thought he'd ride horses for the rest of his life until a mare flipped over on top of him causing a tumor. Kerner didn't know he had to rupture and forcing him to have emergency surgery. The surgery left him "bumming" on his mom's couch until she essentially kicked him out to go live with his uncle in South Florida.

"It was the middle of summer and I'm dressed in starched Wrangler jeans and a button down shirt with a cowboy hat on," Kerner says. "I was a cowboy in South Florida."

Kerner says hippies didn't mind his cowboy sensibilities and invited him into their world of Grateful Dead cover bands and hash.

"They nicknamed me Cowboy and everything," he says.

Kerner and his new friends moved out to California to trim weed for a summer not long after, but he says he never really found his groove out West and missed his family. While visiting his mom at her new place in Kansas, he met a woman and ended up moving to Kansas to be with her. The couple had a baby, got married, and Kerner

got a job working at a bakery. Over the summers he'd help his friends sell glass at festivals, but quietly dreamed of glassblowing until a friend of his offered him an opportunity to work under him as an apprentice.

"I quit my day job and took glassblowing like a college class," Kerner says. "I worked 80 hours a week for three years straight."

Glass competitions and festivals are primarily on the West Coast, which meant trips to Eugene became more and more common for Kerner. The strain of being away from his family so much led them to moving out to Eugene where glass can be a lucrative business.

Both Kerner and Carlson's glassworks are sold across the country and can cost anywhere from \$100 for a glass spoon drop to \$62,000 for a bong or dab rig.

With social media on the rise and more and more head shops opting to sell imported glass; Kerner, who sells as Cowboy Glass, and Carlson who sells under the name LostArt as of 2011, primarily use Instagram as a way to market themselves to collectors.

"Instagram has been great through the years," Kerner says. "But recently, shadow banning has become a real problem for us." "Shadow banning" is when a platform's algorithm restricts visibility of an account. He thinks that glass blowing's tie to marijuana has made it more susceptible to shadow bans across Instagram.

"Instagram is a great way to connect straight to collectors," Carlson says. "If Instagram goes down, I am in major trouble."

Kerner and Carlson have each garnered around 50,000 followers each on Instagram for their time-consuming pieces that require a level of skill and patience backed up by years of experience.

"I've heard a lot of people say, 'Wow, that looks so easy.' That's because I've been doing it for 20 years; I make it

look easy," Kerner says.

Kerner says that the process of blowing glass starts by cutting colorful sticks of glass about four inches total and sticking them inside a clear glass tube. From there, Kerner sticks the tube in a red oven, pulls it out when it starts to heat up and sticks it in his flame. Once the glass begins to move he vacuums out the air between the clear tubes, and sucks out the air pockets. He then turns the vacuum off, turns up his flame and stretches the glass. Kerner throws the glass in the kiln. "That's just step one," he laughs.

Once the glass is out of the kiln he stretches it to the size he wants with his flame and then goes section by section with his flame to manipulate straight lines of color into what the glass community calls "wig wags" — Kerner's speciality.

"From the backside of it they see a piece that's a finished piece and it's just perfect," Carlson says. "But there's a dark history of it coming together. You're ripping this section off and sawing this part off it and it exploded and went back together perfectly. Every time you're just barely pulling it off."

According to Kerner, Eugene has the largest glassblowing community in the nation. For a town with more dispensaries than liquor stores, this claim isn't all that surprising.

For years, Eugene hosted the Degenerate Flame Off, where glass blowers from across the country competed against each other to create functional glass. DFO has gotten so big that the festival is now hosted in Portland.

Out in Veneta, the Wook Festival, hosted every summer since 2020, also lends itself as a chance for glass blowers to connect and show off their pieces.

"We have a thing called 'Holy Sundays' where everybody from the glass community comes down here and we cook food in the parking lot," Kerner says. "There's

AN INTRICATE RAINBOW PIPE THAT IS ONE OF CHRIS KERNER'S FAVORITE PIECES. *Photo by Todd Cooper*



music and glass blowing; it's a real family vibe."

While Eugene remains a hub for premiere glass artists, founder of the now-shuttered Eugene Glass School Mohtadi says he fears that COVID has created a lasting impact on community smoking and glass events; most importantly the Eugene Glass School.

"Glass blowing and smoking is a community event," Mohtadi says. "COVID changed everything. Everything had to stop. We couldn't host events like we used to and some of that never came back."

For over 20 years, the Eugene Glass School taught thousands of glass blowers and hosted events like the Eugene Glass School Flame Off, where glass blowers from across the country competed against each other to create functional glass. Mohtadi says that the school used to bring in some of the best glass blowers in the world to teach color theory and foundational classes.

The Eugene Glass School shut down earlier this year due to financial troubles brought on by what Mohtadi says was a combination of imported glass dominating the market and causing glass "head" shops to stop selling local artists, the rise in edibles and vapes becoming the default way to consume THC and finally the pandemic, which halted classes and events for months.

"We need to support more local glass artists because there is a lot of talent in this community that just isn't getting picked up by head shops," Mohtadi says.

Carlson and Kerner's cult-like followings among glass collectors allow them to get by without getting picked up by glass shops. Carlson's picture of Kerner blowing glass is the cover of the 2011 documentary *Degenerate Art: The Art and Culture of Glass Pipes*, which premiered at SXSW Film & TV Festival in Austin. Their work, often imitated by up and coming glass artists, has had a lasting impact in the glass scene.

"Teaching has become one of my favorite parts of my job," says Kerner, who has had a number of apprentices over his career. "Looking back 20 years and just seeing where it's taken some people I taught in my early years."

While Carlson prefers not to have an apprentice, he is blown away by the new generation of glass blowers. "These new guys are just insanely good," he says. "They're making things I can't even begin to understand how to do."

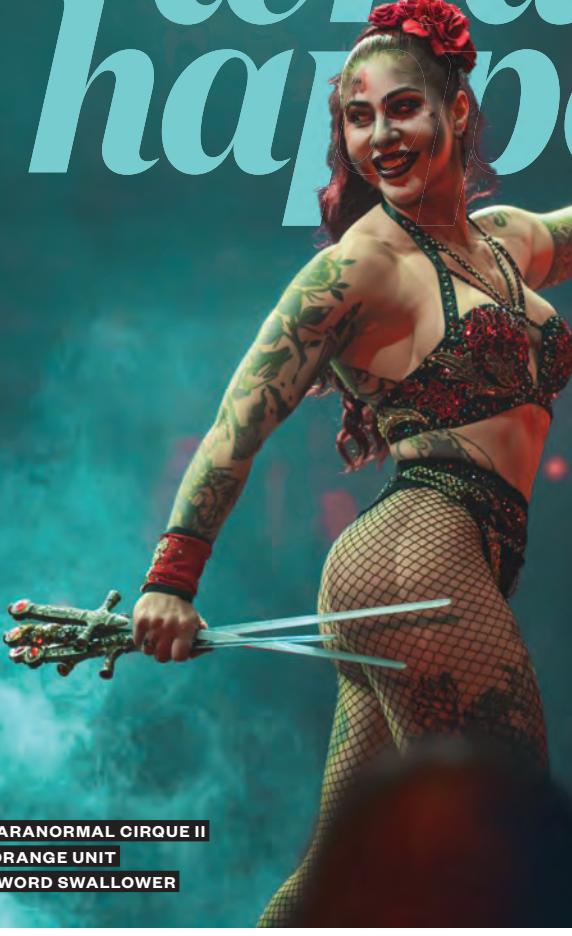
Despite a new crop of glass blowers on the horizon neither Kerner nor Carlson plan on slowing down anytime soon.

"It's like Christmas day when you come into work and see something that took however long to make," Kerner says. "When that day comes and you know that thing is coming out of the oven it just makes me giddy. It's my passion in life."



CHRIS KERNER WORKS ON A SHERLOCK PIPE IN HIS WHITEAKER STUDIO. KERNER SAYS THIS PARTICULAR PIPE WILL SELL FOR ANYWHERE BETWEEN \$750 TO \$1,000. *Photo by Todd Cooper*

what's happening



PARANORMAL CIRQUE II
ORANGE UNIT
SWORD SWALLOWER

A dangerous and wicked experience on tour is coming to Eugene. *Paranormal Cirque* heads to Lane Events Center April 19 to 22 to showcase unique and unexpected talents. Fall into a parallel world where illusionists and mysterious creatures come alive with this combination of theater, circus and cabaret with a European style. Look out for the clown castle resembling a red and black big top tent hiding circus acts, including zombies stumbling and staggering on a high wire, a performer bravely swallowing a sword and more. Watch creepy doll contortionists twist their bodies into unnatural positions. If you're still wondering what to expect, try to think of a "typical" circus with a rated R paranormal twist. Get there early for popcorn, hot dogs, churros, non-alcoholic beverages and a terrifying new haunted attraction pre-show where performers turn into scare actors. "It's scary. It's sexy. It's funny," says Steve Copeland, one of the ghost hunter hosts and comedians. "So if you like horror, then this is the show for you. If you like live entertainment, this is the show for you. If you like comedy, this is the show for you."

Paranormal Cirque is 7:30 pm Friday, April 19, 6:30 pm and 9:30 pm Saturday, April 20, 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm Sunday, April 21 and 7:30 pm Monday, April 22 at Lane Events Center, 796 W. 13th Avenue. Tickets range from \$20 to \$65 and are available at ParanormalCirque.com. The ticket office opens 10 am April 18. Ages 13 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Ages under 13 are not permitted. Pictures without flash and short phone videos are allowed. —Brianna Murschel

Photo by Mike Olivas with Bearded Gonzo Photography

THURSDAY

APRIL 18

ART/CRAFT

Let's Paint TV Premium Pils Release Event, 5-7pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave. FREE.

CIVICS

Envision Eugene Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, 5:30pm. Online at Eugene-OR.gov.

Churchill Area Neighbors General Membership Meeting, 6:30pm, Willamette Christian Ctr., 2500 W. 18th Ave.

COMEDY

Gateway Comedy, 8pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave. \$20-30.

Wild Ones: Comedy Open Mic, 8pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. FREE.

FILM

Dan Savage's 19th Annual *HUMP!* Film Festival pt. 1, 6:30-8pm & 9-10:30pm, Broadway Metro Theater, 888 Willamette. \$20.

Encircle Films: *No Time to Waste*, 6:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$9-12.

Fly Fusion's Trout Tour, 7-10pm, The Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Spfd. \$20.

FOOD/DRINK

5th Annual Ciderhouse, 11:30am-9pm thru. April 21, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Bad to the Beans IPA Collab Release, 6-8pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. FREE samples.

GATHERINGS

Hearing Voices & Different Realities Discussion & Support Group, 10-11:30am,

Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. FREE.

Flourish Networking Eugene, 1-2:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. \$30 per month.

CSS Annual Celebration & Silent Auction, 4:30-6:30pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. \$45.

League 101, 5:30-7pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. FREE.

Psychedelic Parents Group, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. \$10 sliding scale.

KIDS/FAMILY

Preschool Storytime, 10:15-10:45am today & Thu., Apr. 25, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

STEAM Stories: Light, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Tallmadge Doyle: As Above, 4pm, Lawrence Hall, rm. 177, 1190 Franklin Blvd. FREE.

MUSIC

The Jazz Ambassadors, 5pm, Jazzy Ladies Cafe & Club, 560 Oak St., Ste. 130. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 6pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Jimmy Mac's Overtime Bar & Grill, 770 S. Bertelsen Rd. N/C.

Meadow Rue, string band, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Hannah Paysinger, pianist-vocalist, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Eugene Symphony Orchestra: Tchaikovsky's *Pathé-*

tique, 7:30pm, The Hult Ctr. \$10-72.

Will Glausi w/ Quinn Walker, Robert Lassila & Nik Barber, jazz, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Casey Freedom, Americana-singer-songwriter, 8pm, Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. N/C.

Funk Jam, 9pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St. N/C.

NIGHTLIFE

Beginners Board Game Night, 5pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Funagain Games Game Parlor, 2711 Oak St. FREE.

Karaoke For Cash, 6pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Brett, 6:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Viking Brewing Co., 520 Commercial St., Unit F. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Forest, 7pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke Thursdays, 7:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Ninkasi Run Club, 5:30pm today & Thu., Apr. 25, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

SOCIAL DANCE

DJ Slayna & Friends, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$4.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Eugene Emeralds vs. Vancouver, 7:05pm today & Fri., Apr. 19, 5:05pm Sat., Apr. 20 & 6:05pm Sun., Apr. 21, PK Park. Tickets at MiLB.com.

FRIDAY

APRIL 19

ART/CRAFT

Paint & Sip — Colorful Butterfly, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., Ste. 104. \$45.

COMEDY

All Ducked Up: Comedy Open Mic, 5pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. FREE.

DANCE

Alice in Wonderland Open Barre, 6:30-8pm, Ballet Fantastique, 960 Oak St. \$10.

FILM

BURNED: Are Trees the New Coal?, 5:30pm, Campbell Community Ctr., 155 High St. FREE.

In the Dirt — a MTB documentary, 6-8pm, Shift Community Cycles, 811 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Dan Savage's 19th Annual *HUMP!* Film Festival pt. 1, 6:30-8pm & 9-10:30pm, Broadway Metro Theater, 888 Willamette. \$20.

FOOD/DRINK

Whiteaker Walking Food Tour, 1-4pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. \$90.

GATHERINGS

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Meeting, 10-11:30am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd. FREE.

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Tot Discovery Day: Oceans, 9am-noon, Eugene Science Ctr., 2300 Leo Harris Pkwy. Members & infants FREE, non-members \$8-9.

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Bring Your Lunch, 11am-1pm, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnelton St., Ste. 102. \$10.

Learn to Ride, 4-6pm, Bob Keefer Ctr., 250 S. 32nd St., Spfd. FREE.

Djembe Drumming For Beginners, 5pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$10.

Hopes — Structures in Transition, 5pm, Lawrence Hall, Rm. 177, 1190 Franklin Blvd. FREE.

MUSIC

Lea Jones, folk, 6pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. N/C.

Queer Singer-Songwriter Night, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. N/C.

The Henry Cooper Trio, blues-roots-Swampytonk, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

Cherry Hill, bluegrass-vibe, 7pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Missed Connection, Gentlebeing, Tarantula Trust Fund & Reptile Lovechild, emopunk-indie, 7pm, Almonte Boardshop, 1509 W. 6th Ave. \$5.

Bohall, Lassila & Rogers, jazz-Brazilian Choro-Baroque, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Chuck Redd Quartet: *Beyond The Sea*, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$9.50-33.

Oregon Wind Ensemble: *The Shadow of Sirius*, 7:30pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave. UO stu. & staff FREE w/ ID, gen. adm. \$10.

Natty "O" 's 75th birthday bash, blues, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$6.

The Happys + Indre, rock-grunge-pop, 8pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave. \$10-15.

The SURVIVORS Band, classic-rock-variet, 8pm, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy. 99 N. N/C.

Atyya, dubstep-electronic, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$23.

Meow Mix, electronic-hip-hop-dance, 9pm, The Cooler Bar, 20 Centennial Lp. N/C.

NIGHTLIFE

Paranormal Cirque II, 7:30pm, Lane Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave. \$20-65.

Emerald Haze — The Muse Collective, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$9. Kinky Bingo, 8pm, 255 Madison St. \$10.

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

The Muse Collective 4/20 show, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$9.

SOCIAL DANCE

Church of 80s: Dance Party, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$4.

National Dance Week Kick-off Party, 5-8pm, Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave. FREE.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Softball: Oregon vs. Oregon State, 5pm today, 6pm Sat., Apr. 20 & 4pm Sun., Apr. 21, Jane Sanders Stadium. Tickets at GoDucks.com.

College Baseball: Oregon at Stanford, 6:05pm today, 2:05pm Sat., Apr. 20 & 1:05pm Sun., Apr. 21. More info at GoDucks.com.

TEENS

Diamond Paint Stickers, 4pm, Sheldon Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd. FREE.

Teen Stories, 4pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd. FREE.

calendar

SATURDAY

APRIL 20

ART/CRAFT

Figure Art Sessions, 10am-1pm, LCC, 4000 E. 30th Ave., Studio 136, Bldg. 5. \$8.

Fab Felted Fairies, noon, New Day Bakery, 449 Blair Blvd. \$15.

Paint & Sip — Mushroom Forest, 3-5pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., Ste. 104. \$45.

Paint & Sip — Mushroom House, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., Ste. 104. \$45.

COMEDY

Jen Jay's Bongfest, 8-10:30pm, Wetland Brew Pub, 922 Garfield St. \$10.

DRAG

Drag Bingo, 5-7pm, Old Nick's Pub, 211 Washington St. FREE.

FARMERS MARKETS

Ln. County Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, Farmers Market Pavilion & Plaza, 85 E. 8th Ave.

FILM

The Metropolitan Opera: *La Rondine*, 9:45am, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$18-26.

Dan Savage's 19th Annual *HUMP!* Film Festival pt. 1, 6:30-8pm & 9-10:30pm, Broadway Metro Theater, 888 Willamette. \$20.

FOOD/DRINK

Whiteaker Walking Food Tour, 1-4pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. \$90.

Yachats Sip & Stroll, 11am-4pm, Yachats Commons & About Town, Yachats. \$20.

GATHERINGS

Earth Day Electric Vehicle Show, 9am-3pm, Saint Thomas Episcopal Church,

1465 Coburg Rd. Email Contact@eveva.org for more info.

Anton Chekhov: Genius Architect of the Modern Short Story, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-135.

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave. FREE.

Billion New Finds — Barter Faire & Earth Day Celebration, 11am-2:30am, BNF Kombucha & Jun Tap Room, 2495 Prairie Rd., Unit A. Sug. Don. \$10.

Support Goats of Anarchy — Earth Day Sale, 11am, Buffalo Exchange, 1275 Willamette St.

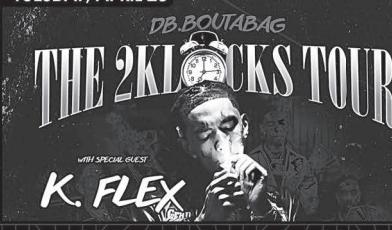
TransParent Group, 11am-12:30pm, Email info@transponder.community for link. FREE.

Malbec in the City, noon-5pm, Castaway Portland,

W.O.W. HALL

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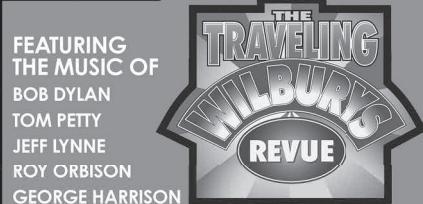
TUESDAY, APRIL 23



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24



FRIDAY, APRIL 26



SUNDAY, APRIL 28



ALL AGES • WOWHALL.ORG • 8TH & LINCOLN - DOWNTOWN EUGENE



EARTH DAY 2024

Photo by Margot Richard

Mother nature — in all its glory — is globally celebrated every year on April 22. Events pop up near and far to support environmental protection. Discover the difference electric cars can make to the planet at the **Earth Day Electric Vehicle Show** happening at the Saint Thomas Episcopal Church Saturday, April 20. You can also spend your Saturday morning at the **Oregon Spring Cleanup** for Alton Baker Park. Then stop by Mind-Full Meadows for **Family Earth Day** and enjoy activities from water coloring and hiking to mud creations and goats. Spend some time at the **Billion New Finds — Barter Faire and Earth Day Celebration** at BNF Kombucha and Jun Tap Room which has an artisanal market with live music, flow arts, workshops and more. Don't forget to bring your treasures to trade. All day Sunday beergarden hosts its **2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration** with a plant exchange, Paint N Sip with Sierra, Lucky Paws adoption and live music from John Shipe. On Earth Day, head to the **Earth Day Celebration** at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Join in for special Walks and Talks with celebratory cupcakes and stop by the museum store and pick up a signed copy of *Understanding Imperiled Earth*. For all the Earth and environmental lovers out there, these are the events for you. Check out the *What's Happening* calendar for more events.

Earth Day Electric Show is 9 am to 3 pm April 20 at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, 1465 Coburg Road. For more info, email Contact@eveva.org. Oregon Spring Cleanup is 10 am to 1 pm April 20 at Alton Baker Park Native Plant Nursery, 630 Day Island Road. Register at Volunteer.SolveOregon.org. Family Earth Day is 2 pm to 5 pm April 20 at Mind-Full Meadows, 30779 Blanton Road. More info at Mind-FullEducation.com. Billion New Finds — Barter Faire and Earth Day Celebration is 11 am to 2:30 pm April 20 at BNF Kombucha and Jun Tap Room, 2495 Prairie Road, Unit A. Suggested donation is \$10. The 2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration is 11:30 am to 9 pm April 21 at beergarden, 777 W. 6th Avenue. FREE. Earth Day Celebration is 10 am to 5 pm April 22 at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Avenue. FREE. — Brianna Murschel

Piccadilly

FLEA MARKET • EUGENE, OR

2024 DATES: MAY 19
APRIL 21 JUNE 9

8:00 EARLY BIRD SHOPPERS \$7.50
10:00 GENERAL ADMISSION \$1.50

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Nancy's

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19

from 12-3pm

Market of Choice
29th & Willamette Location
Look for us out front
under the Nancy's Tent.

Hand us your CLEAN Nancy's
containers and lids only and we
will do the rest! Thanks!

Parkinson's
Resources

Free Event!

ENGAGE EUGENE

Health and Wellness Fair for Parkinson's Awareness Month
Engage with local experts. Discover new tools for living well.

- Parkinson's Disease Information
- Local Resource Partners
- Practical Wellness Tips
- Fitness Demonstrations

SAT. APRIL 27
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Campbell Community
Center

DETAILS & REGISTRATION : PRO.EVENTBRITE.COM
CALL 800.426.6806

calendar

1900 NW 18th Ave., Port-land. \$65-100.

HEALTH

Occupy Medical Services, 9-11am, St. Vincent de Paul Service Ctr., 450 Hwy. 99. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Family Storytime, 10:15-10:45am, 11-11:30am & 11:45am-12:15pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Family Earth Day, 2-5pm, Mind-Full Meadows, 30779 Blanton Rd. More info at Mind-FullEducation.com.

LECTURES/CLASSES

It's In the Air w/ Yaakov Levine, FNTP, 11am-noon, Natural Grocers, 201 Co-burg Rd. FREE.

MARKETS

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-4pm, Park Blocks, 8th Ave. & Oak St.

MUSIC

Faculty Artist Recital: Grace Ho, piano, 3pm, Berwick Hall, 975 E. 18th Ave. UO stu. & staff FREE w/ ID, gen. adm. \$10.

ESYO 90th Anniversary Gala: Junior Orchestra & String Ensembles, 4pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave., UO. \$3-90.

Serenade & Sip, 4pm, Iris Vineyards Wine Bar, 322 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

Chris Couch, variety, 5pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Harlan, Americana-country-classic rock, 6pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. N/C.

Live Music, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co., 907 W. 3rd Ave. N/C.

South Fork Four Band — Benefit Concert, 6pm, Sawdust Theatre, 120 N. Adams, Coquille. More info at SawdustTheatre.com.

Buffalo Romeo, Americana, 7pm, Stewart's Hall at Mill City Odd Fellows #144, 158 SW Broadway, Mill City. \$20-25.

Corwin Bolt & The Wing-nuts, folk-American, 7pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

National Guitar, The Music of Paul Simon w/ the Jenner Fox Band, five-piece band, 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 461 SW. Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$25-30.

ESYO 90th Anniversary Gala: Youth Symphony & Friends, 7:30pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave., UO. \$3-90.

Gossamer Strings Farewell Concert, old-time duo, 7:30pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette. \$18.

Men from SURF, covers-surf music, 7:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

Oregon Jazz Ensemble, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

House & Techno, 8pm, Dark Pine Coffee, 954 Pearl St. N/C.

Lloyd Jones & Rooster Tribute Birthday Extravaganza, blues, 8pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. \$17.

The SURVIVORS Band, classic-rock-variety, 8pm, The Embers, 1811 State Hwy. 99 N. N/C.

Blü Egyptian w/ Drive To Space & Ripple Vision, indie-groove, 9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. \$10.

Rob \$tone, rapper, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$15-20.

Screaming Viking & Clambait, West Coast punk, 9pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

NIGHTLIFE

Karaoke w/ Lewie, 9pm, Slice Downtown, 910 Willamette. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Earth Day Celebration, 10am-2pm, Down To Earth, 532 Olive St.

Oregon Spring Cleanup, 10am-1pm, Alton Baker Park Native Plant Nursery, 630 Day Island Rd. Reg. at Volunteer.SolveOregon.org.

4/20 Market & Plant Sale, 11am-5pm, Inspiring Alignments, 1120 Bailey Hill Rd., Ste. 1.

Play AMTGARD — Live Action Role-playing, 1pm, Emerald Park Pavilion, 1400 Lake Dr. FREE.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

POW Pro Wrestling, 7pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave. \$15-225.

SUNDAY

APRIL 21

ART/CRAFT

Paint N Sip w/ Sierra: Earth Day Special, 1-3pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. \$30.

Paint & Sip — Path into Spring, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St., Ste. 104. \$35.

COMEDY

Come On In! Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Barn Light Bar, 924 Willamette. FREE.

GATHERINGS

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Center, 390 Vernal St. FREE.

2nd Annual Earth Day Celebration, 11:30am-9pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Way of The Tao — Intentional Drumming Circle, 2-4pm, Core Star Cultural Ctr., 439 W. 2nd Ave.

Record Listening Party, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave. FREE.

Emerald Valley Ctr. for Spiritual Living, LGBTQ+ friendly, 4-5:30pm, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St. Don.

KIDS/FAMILY

Ocean Adventure Family Day, 10am-5pm, Museum of

Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. \$6.

Family Fun w/ Yarn, 1-5pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Upcycle Your Herbs, 9-11:30am, Rooted Remedies Apothecary, 271 W. 8th Ave. \$75.

Learning to Confront & Heal Trauma, 2-3:30pm, Ctr. For Spiritual Living, 390 Vernal St. \$50-75.

Nutrition & Lifestyle Medicine Classes, 2-4pm, Eugene Family YMCA Don Stathos Campus, 600 E. 24th Ave. FREE.

MUSIC

Diane Lou Azô, international singer, 3pm, Drain Civic Ctr., 129 W. C Ave., Drain. \$5.

Escher String Quartet, 3pm, Beall Concert Hall, 961 E. 18th Ave., UO. N/C.

Étoffée, blues-swamp rock, 4pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Jazz at the Ciderhouse — Hosted by Idit Shner, 4pm, WildCraft Cider Works, 232 Lincoln St. N/C.

John Shipe, variety-multiple genres, 4pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. N/C.

EastSide Sunday Jam, 5pm, Twisted River Saloon, 1444 Main St., Spfd. N/C.

Porangú — Youssoupha Sidibe Chakaruna World Bridging Tour: A Journey of Sound, Movement & Spirit, 7pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$35-40.

Pathology, Necrotic Gore-beast & Aethereus, slam metal-grind-teach metal, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. \$15-20.

NIGHTLIFE

RWMcCabe Studios: Open Mic, 4pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. FREE.

Open Mic, 5:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Mondays, 6:30pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Quality Trivia, 7pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Karaoke Sundays, 7:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd. FREE.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Eugene Community Ecstatic Dance & Movement, 11am-1pm, 118 Merry Ln. FREE.

Yoga + Beer, 10:30-11:30am, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. \$25.

SPIRITUAL

The Gift of Consultation — A Spiritual Conference, 10-11:30am, Baha'i Ctr. of Eugene, 1458 Alder St. FREE.

THEATER

Auditions for *Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike*, 6:30pm, Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Dr., Cottage Grove.

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MONDAY

APRIL 22

CIVICS

Eugene City Council Work Session, 5:30pm. Email NVenhuada@eugene-or.gov for more info.

Eugene City Council Meeting, 7:30pm, 101 W. 10th Ave.

COMEDY

Comedy Open Mic w/ Seth Milstein, 8pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

GATHERINGS

Earth Day Celebration, 10am-5pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE.

Earth Day Open House, 11am-2pm, Upper Willamette SWCD, 3291 W. 1st Ave. Email UWSWCD.org for more info.

NIGHTLIFE

Beats & Boards, 6:30pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Co., 263 Mill St. \$3.

Open Mic, 6:30pm, Hounds-tooth Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Quality Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6:30pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. FREE.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 7pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Paranormal Cirque II, 7:30pm, Lane Events Ctr., 796 W. 13th Ave. \$20-65.

SPIRITUAL

Mindful Integration & Breathwork w/ PSILO Temple, 7pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1300 Pearl St. FREE.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

College Baseball: Oregon at San Francisco, 12:05pm. More info at GoDucks.com.

TEENS

Study Help, 4-6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

TUESDAY

APRIL 23

ART/CRAFT

Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave. \$8.

FOOD/DRINK

Hoptical Envelopment Beer Release, 6-8pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St. FREE.

GATHERINGS

QTBIPOC Group, 6-7pm, Email info@transponder. community for link. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILY

Baby Storytime, 10:15am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Toddler Storytime, 11am & 11:45am, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Panel discussion: Science & the Humanities, 3-5pm, Knight Library Browsing Rm., 1501 Kincaid St. FREE.

Tweens: Sew a Felt Bookmark, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

Gender Affirming Intimacy w/ Lady V & Jamie Love presented by Sex Positive World, 7-9pm, As You Like It: The Pleasure Shop, 1655 W. 11th Ave., #1. \$20.

LITERARY ARTS

TransPonder Book Club, 5-6pm, Email info@transponder. community for link. FREE.

MUSIC

Jerry Rempel Trio & Bossa Blues CALC Benefit, 5pm, Falling Sky Brewery, 1334 Oak Alley. Drink proceeds don.

Rose Women's Choir Spring Practice & Performance Season, 6:30pm, First Congregational Church, 1050 E. 23rd Ave. Email Sarah-BRoseMusicStudio@gmail. com for more. info.

Rooster's Blues Jam, 7pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. N/C.

NIGHTLIFE

Eugene Chess Club, 6pm, Bill & Tim's Barbecue & Tap House, 201 E. 13th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 6pm, Slice Pizzeria & Bar, 325 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Night w/ Elliot Martinez, 6:30pm, Oregon Wine LAB, 488 Lincoln St. FREE.

Tavern Tales, 7pm, 255 Madison St. \$15-20.

Trivia Night, 7pm, The Ninkasi Better Living Rm., 155 Blair Blvd. FREE.

Trivia Tuesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke w/ Jeff, 9pm, John Henry's, 881 Willamette. FREE.

SOCIAL DANCE

Downtown Dances, noon-1pm, Kesey Square, Willamette St & Broadway E. FREE.

Salsa Dancing, 7pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$5.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Eugene Emeralds vs. Hillsboro, 7:05pm today thru. Apr. 25, PK Park. Tickets at MiLB.com.

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 24

ART/CRAFT

Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave. \$8.

CIVICS

Eugene City Council Work Session, noon. Email NVenhuada@eugene-or.gov for more info.

FILM

The Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine, 1pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$18-26.

Tortilla Soup — Movie Group, 1-2:45pm, Willamette Adult Activity Ctr., 215 W. C St., Spfd. FREE.

GATHERINGS

We/Us/Ours, 6-8pm, Public House, 4606, 418 A St., Spfd. FREE.

Plant Meditation Circle, 6:15-7:45pm, Rooted Remedies Apothecary, 271 W. 8th Ave. Sug. don. \$10.

KIDS/FAMILY

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Talk Time / Hora de conversación en inglés, 4:30-5:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

MUSIC

Open Blues Jam w/ Dave Roberts, 7pm, Twisted Duck, 533 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. N/C.

The Lloyd Tolbert Band, blues-soul, 7pm, Mac's Res-

taurant & Nightclub, 1626 Willamette. N/C.

Luciana Souza & Trio Corrente — Cometa, jazz-Brazilian music, 7:30pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. \$22.25-44.

How?? & Goldvein, Americana-electronica-alt-rock, 8pm, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$5.

Luxury Skin, Egtones & Moonbear, rock, 9pm, Blarney, 245 Blair Blvd. \$8-10. Ott, originals-sound boxes, 9pm, The Big Dirty, 844 Olive St. \$20.

NIGHTLIFE

Open Mic, 5pm, Mulligan's Pub, 2841 Willamette. FREE.

Quality Trivia w/ Rob & Lorraine, 6pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave. FREE.

Cribbage Night, 6:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. \$5.

Bingo Wednesdays, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave. FREE.

Karaoke, 7pm, 255 Madison St. FREE.

Shelbyville Trivia, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. FREE.

Downtown Dances, noon-1pm, Kesey Square, Willamette St & Broadway E. FREE.

SPIRITUAL

Eugene Sound Bath w/ PSILO Temple, 6:30-9pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. Members FREE, non-members \$25 don.

TEENS

Animanga Club, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library. FREE.

THEATER

Blippi: The Wonderful World Tour, 6pm, Hult Center. \$28-68.

THURSDAY

APRIL 25

FILM

The Room & Q&A w/ Greg Sestero, 8:30pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$20.

GATHERINGS

Psychedelic Recovery & Wellness Group, 5:30pm, EDELIC Ctr., 631 E. 19th Ave., Bldg. B. Don.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Teens & Sexuality, 10-11am, Reg. at OpheliasPlace.net/ Webinar \$65.

Race, Rights & Rifles: The Origins of the NRA & Contemporary Gun Culture, 12:15-1:45pm, 110 Knight Law Ctr., 1515 Agate St. FREE.

April Write Club: Historical Fiction — The Guests w/ Flora Winters, 6-8pm, Wordcrafters, 438 Charnon St., Ste. 102. \$69.

MUSIC

Jazz Lab, 6pm, The Public House, 418 A St., Spfd. N/C.

Tom Bergeron & Duo Violão Plus One w/ Rogério Souza, Edinho Gerber, Ami Molini & Rosi Bergeron, classic & modern Choro-samba, 7:30pm, The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. \$15.

Jerry Joseph, 8pm, songwriter, Sam Bond's, 407 Blair Blvd. \$15.

SOCIAL DANCE

Downtown Dances, noon-1pm, Kesey Square, Willamette St & Broadway E. FREE.

Listen to a night full of smooth jazz, Brazilian choro and Baroque music played on a keyboard, double bass and guitar. Choro is an instrumental musical style with influences of African and European music and is popular in Brazil. The Baroque style refers to a period when Western classical music dominated with features of improvisation and ornamentation elements. **Robert Bohall, Robert Lassila and David Rogers** take the stage at The Jazz Station April 19. As a University of Oregon jazz studies alum, Bohall stays connected locally through composing pieces performed by the UO Chamber Choir, the Oregon Jazz Ensemble and JazzArts Oregon while also teaching different functional jazz programs. Lassila performs different genres on the electric and acoustic bass, composes original jazz music and is pursuing a master's degree in jazz studies at UO. Rogers combines classical, jazz and world music elements on the guitar shown through his performances. This Friday, sit back, relax and listen to the sweet sound of jazz. "I think we have a good ensemble, and the show has a lot of variety," Rogers says. "We're doing more modern jazz, which is kind of my personal favorite."

Robert Bohall, Robert Lassila and David Rogers perform 7:30pm April 19 at The Jazz Station, 124 W. Broadway. Tickets are \$15 at TheJazz-Station.org. — Brianna Murschel

Photo by Christopher Briscoe



GUITARIST DAVID ROGERS

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY



It Must Be the Climate

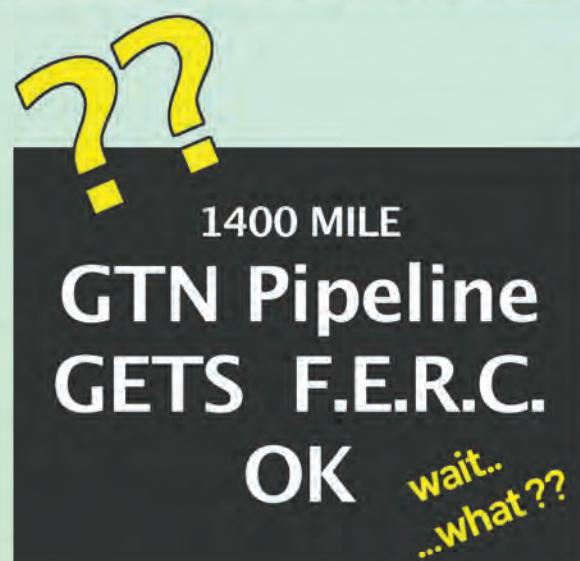
→350EUGENE

A pipeline running under our feet—or at least of many who live in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California—has been granted permission to move fracked methane gas under high pressure for a total of 1,400 miles, from Alberta, Canada to California. This despite an aging infrastructure (the pipeline is 61 years old), despite a history of nearly 400 pipeline explosions (resulting in 440 injuries and 89 deaths) over the past decade, and despite evidence that the increased compression will dump 3.47 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions into our atmosphere.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ignored protestations from two dozen environmental organizations and the Attorneys General from Washington, Oregon, and California. Nor did FERC listen to our own two Oregon Senators, Wyden and Merkeley, who demanded that the new gas project be denied.

Instead, FERC has approved what's known as the GTN Express owned by TransCanada Energy (TCE), and has given that company permission to expand that existing, aging infrastructure, to the tune of \$335 million to increase the gas pipeline's capacity.

There's no question of the danger this project poses to our communities. Just refer to the petitions filed by the states of Oregon and Washington to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, stating that the GTN Express will "increase air pollution, harm wildlife..., and increase safety hazards," adding that "the expansion project will also increase greenhouse gas emissions...which will exacerbate climate change harms to coastal land, forests, parks, and other property."



How did GTN Express get the easy go-ahead?

The problem lies with the nature of FERC, an agency established in 1938, which has a long history of rubber stamping oil and gas projects. FERC is self-funding, meaning that it is compelled to "raise revenue to reimburse the US Treasury through annual charges to the natural gas, oil, and electric industries it regulates." In other words, FERC survives only if the fossil fuel industry continues its practices. And indeed, since 2018 FERC has refused only two of the last 474 proposals to come its way, one of them being the rejection of the Jordan Cove Pacific Connector pipeline in Oregon.

The process for approval is sorely lacking in transparency. Public input is limited, so there's little opportunity to, for instance, inquire how GTN Express (and every other project like it) is adhering to the National Environmental Policy Act, which mandates an environmental impact statement for every proposed project. We can voice our concerns about the inevitable gas leaks from fracking well sites and from the pipeline itself, as well as the compressor stations along the way, spewing dangerous chemicals that harm human health and the planet.

The GTN Express is just the latest example of federal regulation that fails to protect us.

Please contact your elected officials to let them know that FERC must work for the people of this country, and not for the fossil fuel industry.



Author Debby McGee has been a volunteer Director with 350 Eugene since 2013.

She thinks the most important action we can take to address the climate catastrophe is to organize with others and grow a deep relationship with the natural world that sustains us.



CAILEE SPAENY AND KIRSTEN DUNST STAR AS PHOTOJOURNALISTS IN 'CIVIL WAR'

Front Lines

A HARROWING, VIOLENT, DEEPLY WEIRD JOURNEY IN 'CIVIL WAR'

By Rick Levin

The president of the United States is a narcissistic coward who values mere self-preservation over the upholding of any higher principle — you know, like democracy or liberty or any of that stuff. He's now serving his third term, during which he's disbanded the FBI. A blithering fool, the man can barely put two sentences together while addressing the growing conflict that is threatening to tear the nation apart.

No, I am not talking about Donald Trump or Joe Biden. I am speaking, of course, about the actor Nick Offerman, who plays the pointedly unnamed president in the widely anticipated new film by writer/director Alex Garland, who most famously brought us the screenplay for the zombie masterpiece *28 Days Later*.

Garland's *Civil War*, in which civil unrest explodes into widespread warfare across the U.S., enters our fractured social landscape so front-loaded with expectations that it is almost impossible to talk about it as a work of art. Everybody wants answers these days, but this film poses few and answers fewer. It is not about causes but effects. And the effects are hellish.

There have been plenty of civil wars in recent times — in Chad, Congo, Iraq, Somalia, Algeria, Syria — but only when civil war comes to the U.S., if only, for the time being, in the form of a speculative movie, does it get named, bluntly and declaratively, *Civil War*, as though we alone franchised it.

The movie follows the journey of a clutch of photojournalists — excellently portrayed by Kirsten Dunst, Wagner Moura, Stephen McKinley Henderson and, as the youngster of the group, Cailee Spaeny — who travel

We've seen dozens of war movies, perhaps, but watching one happen in your backyard elicits a very distinct disruption in your brain. It's like feeling world history smack you in the face, if only as a possibility.

from the front lines in Charlottesville to Washington, D.C., where they hope to interview the president before the capitol itself falls.

It is a harrowing, violent, deeply weird journey. Similar to the narrative arc of *Saving Private Ryan*, the journalists encounter a series of isolated skirmishes — raging pockets of hell, each one distinct in tenor and tone — that scream of the greater catastrophe at hand. Everywhere they go, they encounter indefinable, indecipherable madness.

At one point, interviewing a man engaged in a fire-

fight, they ask who he's shooting at — as in, which side are you on? The sniper gives them a quizzical look and finally points out that he's shooting at someone who's shooting at him.

That's it: kill or be killed.

Civil War is a very good movie, though the aura surrounding it is certainly a huge part of the fascination it currently holds. I'm not sure I have ever gone into a movie with a greater tension of uncertainty versus expectation, as though the film itself might bring some level of clarity to the chaos of our collapsing empire.

Not 15 minutes into the film, I snapped awake. Oh! I suddenly realized, this is just a movie. More to the point, a war movie — or an anti-war movie, depicting up close and tight the apolitical hell of internece conflict. The fact that this conflict is happening on U.S. soil is, in one sense, completely arbitrary, though it also points to the audacity of Garland's vision.

That audacity creates a kind of dislocation and dissociation in the viewer. We've seen dozens of war movies, perhaps, but watching one happen in your backyard elicits a very distinct disruption in your brain. It's like feeling world history smack you in the face, if only as a possibility.

I mean, nobody went into *Black Hawk Down* hungering for greater clarity on the complex social and political factors fueling the civil war in southern Sudan, and to find out which side was which, and who was to blame. Among other things this film might force you to ask is, why is that?

Because by the time the shooting starts, the moment for politics is over. There are no good guys and bad guys. There are people shooting at each other. There is savagery and fear and bodies blown apart. After the massacre, voices will be compelled to tell us what happened, and start drawing divisions and laying blame again. But at the moment, war and war crime become inseparable terms.

There are a handful of scenes in this movie containing enough raw, explosive power to knock you to your knees. The episode featuring Jesse Plemons, wearing rose-tinted glasses and toting a machine gun as he interrogates the journalists, is alone worth the price of admission, and the movie's final moments are so outrageous, so

audacious, that I'm still thinking about them days later.

The great achievement of Garland's film, then, is that he has placed the architectures of a war film not onto a what happened but, instead, a what if? And, all things considered, he has done a pretty straight job of it, which is why the film is so effective, and so disarming. We expect a curative, some kind of medicine for what ails us, and instead he's slipped us a placebo.

Civil War is playing at Broadway Metro, Regal Valley River Center and Cinemark Eugene Springfield 17.

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'BIRTH TRINITY' BY JUDY CHICAGO

Photo by Ester Barkai

Our Health, Our Art

THREE ARTISTS ACROSS VARIOUS MEDIUMS REFLECT ON REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE THROUGH ART AT THE JORDAN SCHNITZER MUSEUM OF ART

By Ester Barkai

On display at Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art until August 25 is a relatively small but powerful show, comprising 10 works, titled *My Body, My Choice? Art and Reproductive Justice*. Judy Chicago's serigraphs envision the moment of birthing, Nao Bustamante's series centers on gynecological care, and Alison Saar's larger-than-life depictions of African American women were made in response to the 2022 decision by the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Chicago's famous work "The Dinner Party" (1974-79), now permanently on display at the Brooklyn Museum, set the table for significant women from history and is a landmark in feminist art. Her art in *My Body My Choice?* is from another large-scale project, the "Birth Project" (1980-1985).

For five years she collected information from hundreds

of women about their reproductive experiences, their creative fiber art images of pregnancy and childbirth, and made drawings and prints of her own. Her print "Earth Birth" is dark, perhaps set at night. The woman at the center is on her own, and the land around echoes the shape of her body. "Birth Trinity" is a blast of psychedelic colors and vibrating lines that depict a woman giving birth, accompanied by someone helping. Her vagina, the focus of the image, is a strange, graphic, but beautiful cartoon-like vision of creation.

Los Angeles-based artist Saar's art primarily focuses on the African diaspora. Hers two works — "Plucked" and "Uproot" — are monumentally sized at 108 inches tall, but they seem delicate in contrast to Chicago's linear figures. Painted on vintage cotton picking bags, the two African American women represented are more realistically drawn, even when surrealistically combined with branches of the cotton plant.

Inspired by historical accounts of slaves ingesting plants to induce their own abortions, one woman is shown with the roots of a cotton tree in her mouth. The heavy subject matter is contrasted by the lightness of the presentation. The figures hang on cotton fabric that you can easily imagine outside on a clothesline being blown by the wind.

Bustamante's contribution is a series of five multi-media works called "Bloom Speculum Suite" and a video titled "Gruesome History." Both focus on the speculum, an instrument used by gynecologists during pelvic exams.

The suite reimagines the speculum designed after the forms of flowers. It's composed of five lovely images juxtaposing colorful flowers with illustrations of speculums yet to be made.

"Gruesome History," in stark contrast, is a video narrated by a talking speculum. The speculum teaches us about the awful origins of gynecology — which includes performing experimental operations on slave women. It is a disturbing piece of art, and not perhaps in the way the artist intended. Rather than reflecting on the horrible past, I found myself wondering why I was learning about it from a funny-sounding hand puppet.

One couple noted, "The puppeteer seemed to be using a kind of Donald Duck voice." Another woman with gray hair chuckled on her way out, "I'm glad I don't have to go through that again." And then clarified she meant the speculum, not the video.

She could have been referring to either because if she had stayed then she would have heard the history over... and over. The video is replayed about every four minutes, and it provides the background sound for viewing the entire exhibit.

If I could make a suggestion, it would be to have headsets for listening to "Gruesome History," giving visitors a choice for how they wanted to experience the rest of the art.

The exhibit is a companion show, a visual counterpart to the Common Reading Program at the University of Oregon. That program distributes a different book every year campus-wide to faculty in a multitude of disciplines. This year's common reading, by Diana Greene Foster, is *The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, A Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having — or Being Denied — an Abortion*.

My Body, My Choice? Art and Reproductive Justice isn't meant to illustrate the book, but rather respond creatively to the subject matter. Each artist interprets the theme differently while at the same time reflecting a singular message: put decisions about women's health into the hands of women.

My Body, My Choice? Art and Reproductive Justice is at the University of Oregon's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art through August 25.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): I suspect two notable phenomena will coalesce in your sphere sometime soon. The first is a surplus supply of luck. I'm not sure why, but the fates will be sending surges of good karma your way. The second phenomenon is this: You might not be entirely alert for the potential luck flowing in your direction, and it may not leap out and grab you. That could be a problem. Fortunately, you are reading this oracle, which means you are getting a heads-up about the looming opportunity. Now that you realize you must be vigilant for the serendipitous blessings, I'm confident you will spot them and claim them.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): You will be wise to summon extra love and rapport as you ruminate on your vivid upcoming decisions. Wouldn't you like to bask in the helpful influences of smart allies who respect you? How nurturing would it feel to receive healing encouragement and warm appreciation? I suggest you convene a conference of trusted advisors, good listeners, sunny mentors, wisdom keepers, and spirit guides. Maybe even convene a series of such gatherings. Now is an excellent time to call in all your favors and get the most inspirational support possible as you navigate your way to the next chapter of your life story.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): If you drink alcohol, don't operate a forklift or backhoe. If you gamble, protect yourself with safeguards and have a backup plan. If you feel called to explore altered states of consciousness, consider doing meditation, dancing or chanting holy songs instead of ingesting drugs. If you have an itch to go hang-gliding or sky-jumping, triple-check your equipment. And if you have the urge to try to walk on the water, don a lifejacket first. But please note, dear Gemini: I am not advising you to timidly huddle in your comfort zone. On the contrary. I highly recommend you stretch your limits. Just be secure and smart as you do.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): I plotted out my usual astrological reckonings for your current destiny. Then I slipped into a meditative trance and asked the spirits to show me future scenes that correspond to my assessments. In one prominent vision, I beheld you partying heartily, navigating your avid and inquisitive way through convivial gatherings. In other scenes, I saw you engaged in lively discussions with interesting people who expanded your understanding of the meaning of life in general and the meaning of your life in particular. I conclude that intelligent revelry will be a main theme for you. Productive excitement. Pleasurable intrigue. Connections that enliven and tonify your imagination.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): The theory of synchronicity proposes that hidden patterns are woven into our lives. Though they may ordinarily be hard to detect, they can become vividly visible under certain circumstances. But we have to adjust the way we interpret reality. Here's a clue: Be alert for three meaningful coincidences that happen within a short time and seem related to each other. I predict the emergence of at least one set of these coincidences in the coming weeks — maybe as many as four. Synchronicities are coming! You have entered the More-Than-Mere-Coincidence Zone.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Psychologists J. Clayton Lafferty and Lorraine F. Lafferty wrote a book called *Perfectionism: A Sure Cure for Happiness*. It's based on their work with clients who damaged their lives "in the illusory pursuit of the unrealistic and unattainable standard of perfection." In my observation, many of us are susceptible to this bad habit, but you Virgos tend to be the most susceptible of all. The good news is that you now have an excellent chance to loosen the grip of perfectionism. You are more receptive than usual to intuitions about how to relax your aspirations without compromising your competence. As inspiration, consider these words from author Henry James: "Excellence does not require perfection." Leadership expert R. R. Stutman adds: "If perfection is an obstacle course, excellence is a masterful dance."

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): "Everyone is a moon and has a dark side which they never show to anybody," wrote author Mark Twain. I agree that everyone is a moon and has a dark side. But it's important to note that our dark sides are not inherently ugly or bad. Psychologist Carl Jung proved to me that our dark sides may contain latent, wounded or unappreciated beauty. To be healthy, in fact, we should cultivate a vigorous relationship with our dark side. In doing so, we can draw out hidden and undeveloped assets. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you Libras to do this.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Your current state has metaphorical resemblances to idling in your car, waiting and waiting and waiting for the red light to change. But here's the good news: I expect the signal will turn green very soon — maybe even within minutes after you read this horoscope. Here's more good news: Your unlucky number will stop popping up so often, and your lucky number will be a frequent visitor. I'm also happy to report that the "Please don't touch" signs will disappear. This means you will have expanded permission to consort intimately with influences you need to consort with.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): I think it's time to graduate from your lessons in toxic kinds of enchantment and launch a new experiment with healthy kinds of enchantment. If you agree, spend the next few days checking to see if any part of you is numb, apathetic or unresponsive. Non-feelings like these suggest you may be under the enchantment of influences that are cramping your imagination. The next step is to go in quest of experiences, people and situations that excite your imagination, rouse your reverence and raise your appreciation for holy mysteries. Life will conspire benevolently on your behalf if you connect yourself with magic, marvels, and miracles.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Luther Burbank (1849-1926) was a practical artist. Using crossbreeding, he developed over 800 novel varieties of vegetables, fruits, grains and flowers. Among his handiwork was the russet Burbank potato, a blight-resistant food designed to help Ireland recover from its Great Famine. My personal favorite was his Flaming Gold nectarine, one of the 217 fruits he devised. I propose that Burbank serve as your role model in the coming weeks. I believe you have the power to summon highly pragmatic creativity.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): L. R. McBride wrote the book *The Kahuna: Versatile Mystics of Old Hawaii*. He describes the role of the kahuna, who is a blend of sorcerer, scholar and healer. At one point, a kahuna gives advice to an American tourist, saying, "You have moved too fast for too long. You have left part of yourself behind. Now you should slow down so that part of you can catch up." I'm offering you the same advice right now, Aquarius. Here's your homework: Dream up three fun things you can do to invite and welcome back the left-behind parts of you.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): In the course of my life, I have heard the following three statements from various people: 1. "Everything would be better between us if you would just be different from who you are." 2. "I would like you more if you were somebody else." 3. "Why won't you change to be more like the person I wish you would be?" I'm sure you have heard similar pronouncements yourself, Pisces. But now here's the good news: I don't think you will have to endure much, if any, of such phenomena in the coming months. Why? First, because you will be more purely your authentic self than you have ever been. Second, because your allies, colleagues and loved ones — the only people who matter, really — are likely to be extra welcoming to your genuine self.

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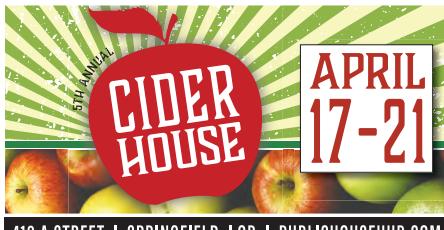
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